

WHERE THEY MAKE THE MOVIES

MANY million dollars are invested in motion picture studios in southern California. Climate and scenery there ideal for "producing" the filmed drama.



By J. C. LESSEN.

THE first motion picture maker went to Los Angeles, Cal., to secure scenic or travelogue subjects, having learned from railroad folders of the beautiful scenery there. That was not more than eight years ago. The scenic photographer secured the views desired and left, never once suspecting that the greater part of the industry would later find California the best place to make pictures. About seven years ago another director discovered that government weather reports showed that full three hundred days of each year the sun shone brightly, and this man, Frank Boggs, induced his employers, the Selig company, with producing plant then located in Chicago, to send a company to Los Angeles to open a studio. All effects of the company were packed in a small trunk. The first studio opened by the organization was on the roof of a downtown building. The first picture cost less than three hundred dollars and consisted of less than a thousand feet. Since that day the greatest motion picture the world has ever seen, costing more than a quarter million, was made but a short distance from the location of the first studio—but that is getting ahead of my story.

Cutting cost in production was so pleasing to this one manufacturer that he could not keep the secret of his success. The word reached his competitors, and they investigated statistics compiled by the government, and a few months later sent companies West.

"Go West," became the slogan of makers of "canned amusement," and one after another established plants in or near Los Angeles.

Besides the advantageous climatic conditions there are other reasons for film producers going to California. Within a radius of fifty miles of Los Angeles practically any kind of a scene desired may be "shot."

It was not until during the last year or eighteen months that manufacturers came to realize fully that the producing end of the industry should be located in California, and now that some fully appreciate the economy of such a move they are building expensive permanent plants.

Before decisions for this move were reached, however, every excuse was offered for continuing in the East, and attempts made to prove the correctness of each one of them; for a big expense is added when the selling department of a concern is located in New York city, three thousand miles from the manufacturing plant.

New York city has always been, and, no doubt, will for years remain, the theatrical center of this continent. There it is that all big theatrical producing organizations have their headquarters, and as the motion picture has to a very great extent taken the place of legitimate stage drama, comedy and musical shows, and is conducted largely by former theatrical men, its headquarters should, the managers think, continue in this eastern metropolis.

With the offices and selling force at one side of the continent and the manufacturing at the other additional expense is caused by the need of each keeping in touch with the other. Practically all of the communications go by wire, and the telegraphic expense of some companies exceeds a thousand dollars per month. In one or two instances wires across the continent are leased from the telegraph companies and operators maintained at the New York office and the studio, in the same manner as newspapers lease wires for news received. This has materially lessened the expense and at the same time added speed and efficiency to the service of the companies.

As the manufacturers come to realize the economical need of continuing permanently the making of motion pictures in California, they have gradually improved their properties there.

The first Universal producing company arrived in Los Angeles Thanksgiving, 1911, and the manager, director, scenario writer, scenic artist, property man, laboratory superintendent, and actor Al. E. Christie, with his band of thirty, leased a barn. To save the cost of buying muslin to use as clouds, that there would be no shadows in the pictures and all faces and images be plain, he caused the stage—which consisted of a mere flat platform—to be built in the north side of the barn where the players could work all day in the shade without the sun spoiling a single scene.

From this very humble beginning has grown the only municipality in the world devoted exclusively to the manufacture of motion pictures—Universal City, four miles north of Los Angeles. This mammoth plant consists of almost four hundred acres, contains a river, valleys, hills and picturesque nooks suitable for filming scenes. The grounds are divided into two sections, because of foot hills extending through the center, with flat valleys on either side. In front are the



House of Representatives Scene Reproduced.



Street Scene of Naples, Italy, During the Middle Ages Reproduced.

Scotch Village Street Scene Reproduced.

administration buildings, a cafe with a capacity of serving one thousand people an hour; barber, manicuring, hair dressing and photography shops; the laboratories, where all film is developed and a positive print made; a wardrobe department, where clothing for an army can be had at a minute's notice, no matter what nation the army is to represent. Here, too, will be found the dressing rooms of the five hundred players, the carpenter shops with a floor space equivalent to four acres. All buildings are of concrete and steel. Beyond the foothills are other stages and the zoo, which contains approximately two hundred wild animals trained to work in pictures. Across the road from this is an honest-to-goodness wild-west horse and cattle corral and bunkhouses for the cowboys. The big grounds are dotted at all times with settings built for this or that production. On one side will be seen a coal mine, while a few feet away is a reproduction from photographs of a street scene in Cairo, Egypt, or the Bowers of New York—possibly a typical Scotch scene, or the native huts of African savages. One of these sets, fifty to five hundred feet long is frequently erected at a cost of several thousand dollars and torn down after the making of from one to three hundred feet of film that will require one to five minutes to show at the theater. It is very seldom that the same setting is used in more than one production.

The world's greatest privately owned collection of wild animals is said to be that at the zoo of the Selig company, located near a public park on historic Mission road, leading into Los Angeles from the famous San Gabriel missions.

This big show place, built at an expense of more than two hundred thousand dollars, contains thirty-eight acres—thirty of which are taken up in animal houses and pens and beautiful lawns and groves. In all there are seven hundred or more specimens, including fifty lions, a herd of elephants, droves of ostriches, scores of monkeys, and many rare animals, together with birds and reptiles from every part of the world. All are maintained for exclusive use in motion pictures, and that they may have homelike settings to "work" in, duplicates of their native haunts have been built on the grounds, each one strongly inclosed to prevent escape, injuries or fatalities to employees. Within the Selig zoo were made all scenes for the fifteen episodes of the first serial motion picture, "The Adventures of Kathlyn," which had an East India locale, together with scores of other great animal pictures. Here also was built and filmed the Alaskan village for "The Spoilers," adapted from the story by Rex Beach, one of the two most profitable pictures made.

More than a quarter of a million dollars is being spent in the building of a mammoth studio at Culver City, a suburb of Los Angeles, by the New York Motion Picture corporation. Since 1910 this company has leased a tract of ground consisting of 18,000 acres thirty miles southwest of Los Angeles where cattle raising has been conducted in connection with the making of motion pictures. The reason for leasing this great tract was that the company originally intended making only western dramas. Later other kinds of stories were filmed, and recently the producing manager or director, Thomas H. Ince, became one

of the three points of the Triangle Film corporation, which inaugurated in New York, Philadelphia and Chicago, motion picture theater programs, where two dollars was charged for the best seats. The new plant will consist of twenty or more concrete and steel fireproof buildings, including nine separate inclosed with ground glass stages—one for each producing organization.

The players will have every comfort, including individual dressing rooms, with steam heat, electric fans, and hot and cold water, etc. Factories in connection with the plant will manufacture all sets, furniture and wardrobe needed. The ranch studio will be maintained, and there two big organizations making western drama will be maintained.

Every hamlet in the country has been invaded by Keystone comedies made in Los Angeles. Four years ago the nucleus of this company, consisting of Mack Sennett, Mabel Normand and Fred Mac, arrived there and rented a vacant lot. Now the Keystone studio occupies two city blocks, practically half of which space is covered with stages, where fun making reigns supreme. Padded bricks, billies and trick props of every nature, from a toy warship to an aeroplane, are on hand at every turn, and here are to be found the greatest collection of comedians the world has ever known—Weber and Fields, Sam Bernard, Eddie Foy, Raymond Hitchcock, Roscoe Arbuckle, Chester Conklin, Charlie Murray of Murray and Mack fame, and scores of others who have graced the comedy and vaudeville stage or the sawdust ring, as headliners. Fun making is here a serious proposition and the hundred odd players, writers and directors treat it as such—even the famous Keystone cops.

The producing quarters of the maker of the most profitable motion picture ever filmed, "The Birth of a Nation," adapted by David Mark Griffith from the book, "The Clansman," consists of two city blocks at present—one taken up with executive offices, buildings, stages and dressing rooms, laboratories, and factories, and the other block retained as a site for settings. Mr. Griffith came to Los Angeles in January, 1914, and leased a lot containing a bungalow. Back of this he built a stage and began work. Additions to the producing staff were made so frequently that no time could be given for future planning. As the result scores of buildings were erected as needed for workshops, developing and printing, laboratories, dressing rooms, etc., so that the studio now has a hit-or-miss appearance, where about five hundred people are employed, fully two hundred being actors, actresses and writers.

In February, 1914, a lively stable in Hollywood, which had later been used for a garage, was leased by two men well known in the theatrical producing world, and they began making a motion picture along new lines. That their method was successful is proved by the fact that five times since they have found it necessary to lease additional grounds, and their plant now covers a block 350 by 700 feet, and the studio is crowded. The men were Jesse L. Lasky, previously a vaudeville producer, and Cecil B. de Mille, legitimate stage producer and playwright. Their company became the Jesse L. Lasky Picture Play company, and they, during the last year, introduced America's greatest opera star, Geraldine Farrar, on the motion picture screen. Miss Farrar worked at the studio twelve weeks in the making of three five-reel subjects at a salary of more than a dollar a minute.

In a brief manner the foregoing describes the producing plants of the largest makers of motion pictures. There are many other studios in Los Angeles, with from one to four companies working at each. It would be impossible to go from the center of the business district to the city limits in any direction without coming upon one or more motion picture plants.

DRAINAGE SURVEY OF 200 ACRES LAND

EXPERIMENT STATION SCIENTIFICALLY PREPARES FOR DRAINING FARM.

DISPATCHES FROM RALEIGH

Doings and Happenings That Mark the Progress of North Carolina People Gathered Around the State Capitol.

Raleigh.

The Division of Drainage of the North Carolina Experiment Station has completed a survey of about 200 acres of land on the farm of Mr. George A. Holderness, at Tarboro, N. C. This is possibly the largest acreage of well-developed farm lands that have yet been surveyed for drainage. It is estimated that in making this improvement to his farm, Mr. Holderness will be called upon to spend approximately \$3,000.

The great feature of the proposition is that the whole system will be laid scientifically correct. Mr. H. M. Lynde, senior drainage engineer of the North Carolina Experiment Station, has made the survey, and Messrs. Harry Cowley and J. C. Wickersham have been engaged by Mr. Holderness to ditch the land and lay the tile. Both of these men have had considerable experience in the work and will be employed until the whole scheme of drainage is complete. About 6,000 feet of tile has already been laid; and, to drain the whole two hundred acres, a total of about 40,000 to 50,000 feet will be required. The system will do away with 4 1/2 miles of open ditches.

The land on the farm is all level and flat—no fall for natural drainage and the work requires skill and care. There is one line 3,000 feet long that has been run, allowing only 2 1/2 feet fall to every hundred feet in length. This is one of the lowest grades used in tile drainage and is permissible in this case only because the ground has been carefully mapped out and the tile is being laid by experienced ditchers.

After the system has been put in, experiments will be conducted by the drainage office for the purpose of finding how much water in proportion to the rainfall is removed by the drainage system.

Program for Shakespeare Day.

A program for Shakespeare Tercentenary Day, March 24, 1916, arranged by the Shakespeare Tercentenary Association of North Carolina, has been issued from the office of the State Superintendent of Public Instruction for observance in the public schools of the state.

The office of the North Carolina association are: Mrs. Lindsay Patterson, Winston-Salem, president; Dr. Maurice Fulton, Davidson; Mr. Ernest Starr, Winston-Salem; Mr. Robert Wright, Greenville; Dr. Archibald Henderson, Chapel Hill; Mrs. Thomas Settle, Asheville; Mrs. Benjamin Sharpe, Greensboro; Mr. John Blair, Wilmington, vice-presidents; Miss Adelaide Fries, Winston-Salem, treasurer; Mrs. S. E. Moran, secretary; Dean H. A. Shirley, Winston-Salem, musical director.

Opinions of the Supreme Court.

Byrum vs. Turner, Pasquotank. Action dismissed. Brown, J. Skinner et al. vs. Thomas, Pasquotank. Affirmed. Allen, J. Wright vs. Thompson & Moseley. Pasquotank. Reversed. Hoke, J. State vs. Bass, Nash. Reversed. Brown, J. Woodard vs. Steiff, Ison. No error. Allen, J. Bank of Colerain vs. Cox, Bertie. Affirmed. Walker, Jr. In re will of Cole, Lee. Affirmed. Clark, C. J. Taylor vs. Johnson, Harnett. Appeal dismissed. Hoke, J. Burwell vs. Town of Livingston, Harnett. Modified and affirmed. Walker, J.

Orphan's Association Meets April 16.

The program committee of the North Carolina Orphans' Association has been in session making out a program for its annual meeting that is to be held in Raleigh April 16. This committee is composed of Dr. H. C. Moore, M. L. Shipman, J. R. Young and Miss D. Denney. A meeting of the executive committee was held and the day for the convention set. Present for this meeting were Archibald Johnson, chairman; W. F. Evans, Greenville; R. L. Brown, Oxford; C. W. Pender, Clayton, and Miss Denney.

Equipment for Hygiene Laboratory.

The State Laboratory of Hygiene here has installed new equipment and adopted a new method for the examination of sputum, according to Dr. A. C. Shore, director of the State Laboratory of Hygiene. By this method the whole amount of the sputum specimen may be used in the examination and the bacilli separated by means of a high-speed electric centrifuge, whereas by the old method only a small amount of the sputum could be used in making the examination, and the bacilli hard to separate.

Department Receives Letter of Thanks.

The Department of Labor and Printing is in receipt of a letter from Alberto Volunimeti, commissioner representing Uruguay, expressing thanks for the service rendered by the Department in placing him in touch with North Carolina manufacturers. He says that he has received many catalogues from Tar Heel manufacturers and that he hopes to visit the state at an early date. He is authorized by his nation to get in touch with manufacturers of furniture, structural iron, clothing, etc.

Library Association Meets April 12-13.

The North Carolina Library Association will hold its regular annual meeting in Gastonia April 12 and 13. The Gastonia Library Committee and Woman's Betterment Association are to be hostesses for the librarians. Miss Sarah Askew, New Jersey Public Library Commissioner, and Dr. Morris G. Fulton, of Davidson College, are to be the principal speakers.

The following are officers of the association:

President, Miss Mary B. Palmer, Carnegie Library, Charlotte; vice president, Miss Nan Strudwick, University of North Carolina Library; second vice president, Eva E. Malone, Meredith College Library; treasurer, Mrs. A. F. Griggs, Public Library, Durham; secretary, Miss Carrie L. Broughton, State Library, Raleigh.

Four Road Experts for the State.

The United States Office of Public Roads has announced that four expert highway engineers will be assigned to North Carolina for service under the State Highway Commission. These engineers will be assigned to duty in counties that will pay their expenses. The salaries will be paid by the Office of Public Roads. One will be used in Wayne County; another in Randolph and the other two have not yet been assigned. Hereafter, all requests to the Office of Public Roads for engineering assistance must go through the State Highway Commission. The commission invites all counties, towns and townships, having need of expert engineering advice, to make requisition for it.

Dank Examiner Resigns.

H. D. Bateman of Greenville, assistant bank examiner, has tendered his resignation to the North Carolina Corporation Commission, to take effect April 1. He has been elected cashier of the Branch Banking Company of Wilson, one of the strongest banks in eastern North Carolina. He has been with the commission three years. It is understood that a successor to Mr. Bateman will be chosen from the east, as the chief examiner, S. A. Hubbard, is from Rockingham county and the other assistant, J. G. Nichols, is from Rutherford.

Two More Cheese Factories.

Two more co-operative cheese factories are being constructed in the cheese district of western North Carolina. Mr. F. R. Farnham, of the Office of Dairy Farming, is now busy near Sweetwater, Watagua county, aiding the farmers of the section in getting their factories ready by spring. Sweetwater is not so far from Beaver Dam, where one factory is already in operation.

New Enterprises Authorized.

Wiggins-Spencer Co., of Charlotte. Capital stock, \$25,000. Subscribed stock \$7,500. Incorporators: J. L. Wiggins, Charlotte; F. D. Spenser, Charlotte; F. P. Wiggins, Maxton. Amendment was filed for the Haynes Bank of Henrietta, authorizing the establishment of a branch bank at Chatside.

Amendment was filed for Reynolds Bros. Lumber Company, of Franklin, authorizing the issuance of five hundred additional shares of stock at par value of \$100.

Amendment was filed to the charter of Davis Drug Company, of Concord, changing the name of the firm to Pearl Drug Co.

The Burke Farmers' Union Warehouse Company, Morganton, to deal in farming implements and supplies on a co-operative basis. The capital stock may be increased to \$25,000, but the business starts with \$1,264 paid in. J. R. Howard is manager and there are more than 300 stockholders.

Garteret Lumber Company, Hertsford, will do a general lumber business. The paid-in capital is \$100,000, and this may be increased to \$250,000. George E. Major, W. R. White and G. G. Newby are the incorporators.

The National Training School, Durham, is chartered to run a school of religious training for colored people. Gen. J. S. Carr and Judge Pritchard are members of the board of trustees. W. G. Pearson, J. B. Mason, J. E. Shepherd and others are the incorporators.

The Howard-Wellis Amusement Company, of Wilmington, with authorized capital stock of \$100,000. The incorporators are Percy W. Wells, James Howard, W. F. Jones, and others.

Bladen to Fight Pellagra.

Bladen county is the first county of the state to undertake a campaign against pellagra. It is announced that beginning April 1, a campaign will be conducted in Bladen for the elimination of typhoid and pellagra. It will be in charge of the state board of health. Rural sanitation and the prevention of contagious diseases will also receive attention. Dr. T. M. Jordan will conduct the campaign and is now in Bladen making arrangements. The county has raised \$800, half of it by popular subscriptions, for the work.

Blanks For Bond Elections.

Blank petitions for special election on school bonds as authorized by the act of the last General Assembly have been drawn up by the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, J. Y. Joyner, and these are for distribution in the school districts of the state. The act authorizing the bond issues in this case is statewide. It prescribes conditions by which bonds for school buildings for counties, townships, certain school districts and for cities and towns may be issued without legislative action.

State Fair Association Meets.

The executive committee of the State Fair Association met here with Mr. Leonard Tufts, the new president, presiding. About 30 members attended and many matters of importance were discussed. The association will probably issue bonds for \$50,000 for making necessary improvements at the fair grounds. It was decided that the fair would not be moved from the present location, but that the present grounds would be greatly improved for the coming fair, October 16-21.

INTERNATIONAL SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSON

(By E. O. SELLERS, Acting Director of Sunday School Course, Moody Bible Institute.)
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LESSON FOR MARCH 12

HEROES AND MARTYRS OF FAITH.

LESSON TEXT—Heb. 11:1, 2, 3.
GOLDEN TEXT—Let us run with patience the race that is set before us, looking unto Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith.—Heb. 12:1, 2.

There are two kinds of heroism for which medals are awarded in this country. Congress confers a "medal of honor" for distinguished services and extraordinary heroism in war. The Carnegie "hero fund in peace" bestows medals and pecuniary recognition for heroic deeds of human life, and the first medal thus issued was given to a boy for rescuing another boy from drowning.

1. Faith Defined, v. 1. This is perhaps the most quoted and succinct definition we have of faith. What follows is but the illustration and application of the fact. Faith is an "assurance" (R. V.). The ground of this assurance and conviction is the word of God. (See Rom. 10:17). The only sure ground for a dynamic and intelligent faith is God's word; put to the acid test of experience it never fails. Faith is not fatalism. To believe God is to rely upon him unhesitatingly with an unfaltering assurance as to the fulfillment of his promises, (1 John 5:10; John 5:24; Act. 27:23; Rom. 4:19-21).

2. Faith Declared, vv. 4, 5. Faith had been declared and manifested by many illustrations before the death of Stephen:

(a) Abel, at the risk of his brother's anger, obeyed the unseen God and earned his approval; his heroic martyr spirit still speaks to men (v. 4). (b) Enoch, the diligent seeker after God, in a world of lawlessness lived a life well-pleasing to him through a faith that made his presence real (vv. 5, 6).

(c) Noah (v. 7), a lonely man of faith (Gen. 6:5), chose the unseen God and preached righteousness rather than avoid the ridicule of his neighbors. Noah reckoning the invisible as tangible, continued to build his ark and became a blessing to the race.

(d) Abraham and Sarah (8-12). Not knowing whither they went, by faith these lonely pilgrims unerringly followed an invisible God to an unseen country; but a faith greater still led them to "dwell in the land" and not possess it (v. 10). Their faith redeemed them from the mere emigrant character. They looked for a city, which had foundations, whose builder and maker is God.

(e) Moses (23-28) showed his faith by a right choice. He weighed values and had "respect unto the recompense of reward." His faith "endured, as seeing him who is invisible." Moses saw by faith the "reproach of Christ," that which Christ suffered for the redemption of the world, as being of "greater riches than the treasures of Egypt."

These, and others not mentioned, are summarized by their having accomplished ten different things (32-40). They performed great deeds of heroism (32-34); they endured great suffering and persecution (33, 36). All of this suffering was to issue in a greater reward with the glory that was to come (Rom. 8:18; II Cor. 4:17, 18). All these men of faith "obtained a good report." These saints had witness borne to them through their faith. Truly witnessing, their names and deeds are recorded for our good, yet even they did not receive the promise, i. e., all that had been promised by God had not been fulfilled in them. Such promises were only fulfilled when Christ the Messiah came. Something better than they had received came when he came, and without his coming they were not made perfect. They did not receive, but the promise of God had not failed. They will yet receive his fulfillment when the roll of the heroes of faith is perfected, and we, together with them, "shall be made perfect" (vv. 39, 40).

3. Faith Demanded, 12: 1, 2. The Holy Spirit has given us this long list of heroes as an exhortation to stir up those living to the performance of their duty. The roll call of triumphant heroes is not yet completed. All these mentioned are witnesses, not onlookers. These are they who have testified to God and to the truth of his word. In the light of this testimony and on the same ground of their testimony, we are to do several things:

1. To "lay aside every weight." No runner carries any weight beyond that which is needful. Some things are burdens that are not necessarily sins. Every such thing hinders our running and should be laid aside.

2. "The sin that doth so easily beset us." Literally, that wrap themselves about us as an ill-fitting garment, and which trip or impede the runner's progress. These sins (not sin) are those little devil habits and practices which must, for that reason, be laid aside.

3. "Run with patience the race set before us." There must be steadfastness and endurance. If church members were as faithful in following up as the average business house is, we would have less of lapsed church members and fewer boys and girls who drift away from the Sunday school.

4. "Looking unto Jesus." This is the keynote to this entire epistle and to this category of heroes. He is our "faith-leader" and the perfecter of our faith. Once we get our eyes off him we will stumble and fall in the race. "For the joy (literally equal fellowship with God) set before him, he endured the cross" (Phil. 2:8). If we would win the race, we must despise the sin which lies in the path of absolute loyalty to God.

The work of Jesus and the bestowing of the Holy Spirit who is always with us, is the source, the author of our faith.

Sterilizing Dentists' Tools.

Dr. H. E. Hasseltine of the United States Public Health service emphasizes in a recent bulletin the necessity for sterilization of the instruments used by dentists, and the Journal of the American Medical Association points out that most dentists are not nearly careful enough about this. Most of their instruments can be sterilized by immersion in water at 176 degrees Fahrenheit, and all others by immersion for at least an hour in 5 per cent solution of carbolic acid.

TAKEN FROM EXCHANGES

Damascus, in Syria, is the oldest of all existing cities.

Egypt has 26 schools of higher education, technical and agricultural, and 4,000 students are enrolled.

Among the lower animals only about five per cent are defective at birth, a much lower ratio than among human beings.

New York city is one of the few great ports of the world on a big navigable river below the farthest point upstream to which open going vessels can attain. Cheapness of water transportation as compared with land makes it desirable for ships to penetrate as far inland as possible, other circumstances being equal.

Somewhat Mixed.

The transcontinental tour of the liberty bell occasionally revealed a confusion of ideas about United States history on the part of the observers. Take, for instance, the remark of the Englishman as the bell made its triumphal progress through Los Angeles. Removing his hat in solemn respect to the great emblem, he turned to his companion, "But—I say, old chap," he exclaimed in puzzled disappointment, "why don't they have the lady singing to the clapper?"